

GARY LOCKE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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I often share my belief that we have the best state employee team in the country, right here in Washington. The people of Washington depend on state employees every single day. And in spite of resource constraints and rising demands, our hard-working, dedicated and talented team consistently delivers superior programs and services, while also striving to improve and find new ways to better help the public.

This spirit of excellence in helping others goes beyond the workplace and long hours on the job. Washington state employees are also number one in America in charitable giving for comparably sized states. Our charitable giving program—the [Combined Fund Drive](#) (CFD)—kicks off its 20th campaign on September 15.

There is a special feeling we experience when we provide help to others. There are many people who, through no fault of their own, are experiencing difficult circumstances. As a community, we owe it to these people to help them in their time of need. A society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable members. The success of our Combined Fund Drive illustrates the kind of society we value here in Washington.

But it's not just the vulnerable in our society who benefit from the Combined Fund. Virtually all of us have personally benefited from the services and support provided by the many non-profit organizations involved in the Combined Fund Drive. Whether it's a loved one healing from an innovation discovered through medical research, or walking a serene trail that's been protected and maintained, or a child receiving a valuable scholarship, or friends being helped during natural disasters like Hurricane Frances and our own state's wildfires, we are all touched by the services these organizations provide.

We are making a difference in our community by participating in charitable giving. And we are helping ourselves feel better about our place in the community.

We are fortunate that the Combined Fund Drive makes it easier and more efficient to give to charity. Life is often hectic. It can be hard to find time to research and coordinate charitable giving. But the Combined Fund Drive makes it much easier, with one annual decision that is carried out for the rest of the year. And we don't even have to get out our pen and checkbook!

Thank you to the volunteers, our state employees and retiree donors. You generously serve our state and prioritize philanthropy. Not only do you give to your favorite charities, but you give generously. I am proud to serve as Governor and witness this tremendous outpouring of care. Washington is one of only four states to give more than \$5 million, a truly impressive level of generosity.

Will we achieve another record setting campaign? Only you and I can make that happen by looking at what matters most to us, selecting our favorite charity, and making an investment in our community and our world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Locke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" and the last name "Locke" clearly distinguishable.

Gary Locke
Governor